

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag for tagging and identifying cattle comprising a transponder, ~~programmable or not capable of being programmed~~, enclosed in a shell, said shell comprising an open-ended or blind axial transverse passage for a fixing means to the ear of the animal, wherein the shell is made from two half-shells namely a lower half-shell and an upper half-shell, which are assembled together at a median plane which is disposed transversely to the axial passage opening for the fixing means, and the transponder is enclosed within the two half-shells.

2. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein the two half-shells are provided with complementary internal and external walls, contributing to their assembly, to stiffen the shell and to fix the internal transponder in place.

3. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein the upper half-shell comprises a sleeve with a central opening around the median axis, wherein a cylindrical wall projects outwards on a planar wall of the upper half-shell and is extended by an inner cylindrical wall below said planar wall to connect with a corresponding lower cylindrical wall on the lower half-shell, the planar wall of the upper half-shell being connected on its periphery to a vertical cylindrical wall connecting it to the lower half-shell.

4. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 3, wherein the lower half-shell comprises a lower cylindrical inner wall around its median axis corresponding to that of the sleeve of the upper half-shell and providing the transverse passage,
that ~~it~~ the lower cylindrical inner wall is provided with an internal projection,
that ~~it~~ the lower cylindrical inner wall is provided with a projecting peripheral rim cooperating with the orthogonal peripheral wall of the upper half-shell.

5. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 4, wherein an internal projection is placed between the lower internal cylindrical wall and the peripheral rim.

6. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 4, wherein the internal projection is of a lesser height than the ~~clear height within the button tag distance~~ between the planar wall of the upper half-shell and an opposite planar wall of the lower half-shell.

7. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 3, wherein the lower cylindrical wall of the lower half-shell has a conical form with an upper shoulder enabling the tip of the punch of a male panel tag to be locked in.

8. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 7, wherein the sleeve is blind on the upper half-shell.

9. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 3, wherein the ends of the vertical walls of the upper half-shell are provided with flux cores (10).

10. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a processor of the transponder is folded down onto ~~the a~~ coil, the processor being fixed into position by ~~the a~~ glue.

11. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 9, wherein the flux cores are laser welded.

12. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 3, wherein the lower half-shell is provided with a peripheral rim which on assembly fits into the external shoulder of the vertical wall of the upper half-shell.

13. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag for tagging and identifying cattle including a transponder, ~~programmable or not~~ capable of being programmed, enclosed in a shell, the shell being composed of a first shell portion and a second shell portion which are assembled together at a median plane, the transponder is enclosed ~~within~~ without compression between the two shell portions using an adhesive and the two shell portions are assembled by means of a laser

weld, and the two shell portions are provided with complementary internal and external walls, contributing to their assembly, to stiffen the shell and to fix the internal transponder in place, the second shell portion including a sleeve with a central opening around a median axis, said sleeve is blind and projects outwards from one side of a planar wall and is extended by a cylindrical wall extending from an opposite side of said planar wall to connect with a cylindrical wall of the first shell portion, a planar wall of the first shell portion being connected at its periphery to the second shell portion.

14. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 13 wherein the cylindrical wall of the first shell portion provides a passage for a punch of a male tag for fixing the tag to the ear of an animal, said cylindrical wall of the first shell portion having a conical form and providing a shoulder within the sleeve to enable a tip of the punch of a male tag to be locked in the sleeve.

15. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag as claimed in claim 14, wherein an internal projection is located between the cylindrical wall and a peripheral rim of the second shell position, the internal projection being of a height less than the distance between the planar walls of the first and second shell portions.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag as claimed in claim 14 or 15, wherein the ends of the cylindrical wall of the second shell portion and a peripheral wall of the second shell portion are provided with flux cores.

18. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the ends of the cylindrical wall of the second shell portion and a peripheral wall of the second shell portion are provided with flux cores and the flux cores are laser welded.

19. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 18, wherein the first shell portion is provided with a peripheral rim which on assembly fits into an external shoulder of the peripheral wall of the second shell portion.

20. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein a processor of the transponder is located on a coil, the processor being fixed into position by the adhesive.

21. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag as claimed in claim 13, wherein the ends of the cylindrical wall and a peripheral wall of the second shell portion are provided with flux cores and the flux cores are laser welded.

22. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 21, wherein the first shell portion is provided with a peripheral rim which on assembly fits into an external shoulder of the peripheral wall of the second shell portion.

23. (Currently Amended) An electronic button tag for tagging and identifying cattle comprising:

a transponder, ~~programmable or not capable of being programmed~~, enclosed within a shell, the shell is made from two half-shells namely a lower half-shell and an upper half-shell, which are assembled together at a median plane which is disposed transversely to the axial passage opening for the fixing means, the two half-shells are provided with complementary internal and external walls, contributing to their assembly, to stiffen the shell and to fix the internal transponder in place, the upper half-shell has a sleeve with a central opening around the median axis forming an open-ended or blind axial passage for a fixing means to the ear of an animal, wherein a cylindrical wall below said planar wall to connect with a corresponding lower cylindrical wall on the lower half-shell, the planar wall of the upper half shell being connected on its periphery to a vertical cylindrical wall connecting it to the lower half-shell, the transponder is fixed in place without compression between the two half-shells using a glue, the two half-shells are assembled by means of a laser weld.

24. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 23, wherein the lower cylindrical wall is provided with an internal projection that is provided ~~with~~ by a projecting peripheral rim cooperating with an orthogonal peripheral wall of the upper half-shell.

25. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 24, wherein an internal projection is placed between the lower cylindrical wall and the peripheral rim.

26. (Currently Amended) The electronic button tag according to claim 24, wherein the internal projection is of a lesser height than ~~a clear height within the button tag~~ the distance between the planar wall of the upper half-shell and an opposite planar wall of the lower half shell.

27. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 23, wherein the lower cylindrical wall has a conical form with an upper shoulder enabling a tip of a punch of a male panel tag to be locked in.

28. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 23, wherein ends of the vertical walls of the upper half-shell are provided with flux cores.

29. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 23, wherein a processor of the transponder is folded down onto the coil, the processor being fixed into position by the glue.

30. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 28, wherein the flux cores are laser welded.

31. (Previously Presented) The electronic button tag according to claim 1, wherein the two half-shells have substantially a same radius about a median axis.